Reservation in unaided professional colleges

1250. SHRI A VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

whether there is any attempt to restore the reservation quotas, after the Supreme Court's judgement of the year, 2005, in admission in the unaided professional colleges so as to ensure social control of education;

if so, the number of seats reserved for various communities but abolished through the above judgement, as on date, State-wise, category-wise; and

the action taken for bringing social justice, in professional education, to the marginalized people after the above judgement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) The Central Government in consultation with all concerned is in the process of formulating a policy to address the social justice consideration in respect of admission of students to unaided professional educational institutions. The statistics regarding present level of reservations in different courses in the different States is maintained by the State Governments.

Education in rural areas

†1251.SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

whether it is a fact that Government schools are the only source of education for most of the children of families living in rural areas;

if so, whether it is also a fact that condition of these schools is very pathetic in the rural areas and large scale improvements are required in these schools;

if so, whether Government are going to initiate any comprehensive plan for improvement in the level of education for children of the rural areas; and

if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) No, Sir. According to 6th All India Education Survey (30th September, 1993) conducted by NCERT, 81.63% of students in rural areas study in Government or local body schools.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) to (d) As far as the schools run by the Central Government are concerned, improvement is a continuous process and is attended to from time to time as when the need arises. However, most schools come under the purview of State Governments and it is for them to provide required facilities.

Teaching through FM radio

1252. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to use FM radio for teaching;

if so, the details of the scheme, by when it is likely to be introduced; and

the universities and the school education boards which have shown interest and are likely to benefit from this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has launched Gyan Vani, a 'Radio Co-operative' devoted exclusively to education and community development. The University has so far commissioned 17 FM Radio Stations at Bhopal, Coimbatore, Vishakhapatanam, Lucknow, Mumbai, Allahabad, Bangalore, Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata, Varanasi, Shillong, Guwahati, Raipur, Hyderabad, Jabalpur, and Mysore. These inter-active participatory educational programmes include information relevant to students of pre-primary, primary, secondary and higher secondary classes, as well as enrichment programmes to build environmental awareness, women's empowerment, legal literacy, professional education and science education. These are being operated in collaboration with State Open Universities and other partner institutions.

(c) According to the information furnished by the IGNOU, following insitutions are benefiting under this scheme:-

(i) Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, (ii) School of Distance Education, Andhra Pradesh, Visakhapatnam, (iii) GRD College of Science, Coimbatore, (iv) NIT, Allahabad, (v) Saurashtra University, Rajkot, (vi) S.N.D.T University, Mumbai, (vii) Netaji Subhash Open University, Kolkata, (viii) Madhya Pradesh Bhoj (Open) University, Bhopal and (ix) Karnataka State open University, Mysore.